

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 176

To authorize assistance to the countries of the Caribbean to fund educational development and exchange programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 4, 2007

Ms. LEE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To authorize assistance to the countries of the Caribbean to fund educational development and exchange programs.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Shirley A. Chisholm
5 United States-Caribbean Educational Exchange Act of
6 2007”.

7 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

8 In this Act:

9 (1) CARIBBEAN.—The term “Caribbean” in-
10 cludes—

1 (A) the member countries of the Caribbean
2 Community (CARICOM), but does not include
3 any country having observer status in
4 CARICOM; and

5 (B) the member countries of the Associa-
6 tion of Caribbean States (ACS), but does not
7 include any country having observer status in
8 the ACS.

9 (2) SECRETARY.—Except as otherwise provided,
10 the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of State.

11 (3) ADMINISTRATOR.—Except as otherwise pro-
12 vided, the term “Administrator” means the Adminis-
13 trator of the United States Agency for International
14 Development.

15 (4) UNITED STATES COOPERATING AGEN-
16 CIES.—The term “United States cooperating agen-
17 cies” means any nongovernmental organization hav-
18 ing United States citizenship that is designated by
19 the Secretary to carry out the program authorized
20 under section 6.

21 (5) SECONDARY SCHOOL.—The term “sec-
22 ondary school” means a school that serves students
23 in any of the grades 9 through 12 or equivalent
24 grades in a foreign education system as determined

1 by the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary
2 of Education.

3 (6) UNDERGRADUATE.—The term “under-
4 graduate” means a college or university student
5 working toward an associate-level or bachelor’s de-
6 gree.

7 (7) GRADUATE.—The term “graduate” means a
8 student pursuing a degree beyond the bachelor’s
9 level.

10 (8) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
11 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
12 mittees” means the Committee on International Re-
13 lations and the Committee on Appropriations of the
14 House of Representatives and the Committee on
15 Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropria-
16 tions of the Senate.

17 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS.**

18 Congress finds the following:

19 (1) The United States and the Caribbean have
20 enjoyed long-standing friendly relations.

21 (2) As an important regional partner for trade
22 and democratic values, the Caribbean constitutes a
23 “Third Border” of the United States.

24 (3) The decrease in tourism revenue in the
25 aftermath of the tragic terrorist attacks on Sep-

1 tember 11, 2001, had an adverse affect on the Car-
2 ibbean.

3 (4) According to a 2005 World Bank Report on
4 the Caribbean, unemployment, particularly youth
5 unemployment, has severe implications on poverty
6 and income distributions, as well as drug trafficking
7 and addiction.

8 (5) The World Bank Report also concludes that
9 better synchronization is needed between current
10 Caribbean curricula and the skills needed in an
11 evolving job market and economy.

12 (6) Many Caribbean leaders have linked the in-
13 crease in crime to a decrease in economic alter-
14 natives. Consequently, United States and Caribbean
15 leaders have highlighted the need for increased edu-
16 cational opportunities for Caribbean students.

17 (7) By enhancing United States cultural and
18 educational exchange programs in the Caribbean, re-
19 gional security is improved by expanding human re-
20 sources and providing opportunities that promote
21 economic growth.

22 (8) Many Caribbean leaders studied at the un-
23 dergraduate or graduate level in the United States
24 before returning to their respective countries to con-

1 tribute towards the strengthening of democracy, the
2 economy, or the provision of social services.

3 (9) From 2003 through 2005, 217 Caribbean
4 leaders participated in exchange programs with the
5 United States that focused on good governance,
6 combating drug trafficking, anti-corruption, and
7 other regional issues of concern.

8 (10) The Department of State currently admin-
9 isters public outreach programs that include cul-
10 tural, academic, and citizen exchange initiatives in
11 Caribbean countries through the Embassy Public Af-
12 fairs Sections with support from the Office of Public
13 Diplomacy in the Bureau of Western Hemisphere
14 Affairs.

15 (11) In some Caribbean countries, the United
16 States Agency for International Development coordi-
17 nates the Center of Excellence for Teacher Training
18 (CETT), a successful Presidential initiative that em-
19 phasizes teacher training as a key to the develop-
20 ment of a competitive work force.

21 (12) In Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, the
22 Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, the Cayman Islands,
23 the Dominican Republic, Dominica, Grenada, Guy-
24 ana, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St.
25 Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname,

1 and Trinidad and Tobago, the Bureau of Edu-
2 cational and Cultural Affairs sponsors educational
3 advisors to promote study in the United States.

4 (13) In the 2004–2005 academic year, approxi-
5 mately 14,000 Caribbean students were enrolled in
6 United States universities.

7 **SEC. 4. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.**

8 The purpose of this Act is to develop two comprehen-
9 sive educational initiatives targeted toward the Caribbean.
10 The first will establish a system for United States-Carib-
11 bean educational exchange programs, and the second will
12 develop a plan to enhance teacher training and community
13 involvement in early education in the region.

14 **SEC. 5. AVOIDANCE OF DUPLICATION.**

15 The Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary
16 for Public Diplomacy, shall consult with the Administrator
17 and the Secretary of Education to ensure that—

18 (1) activities under this act are not duplicative
19 of other efforts in the Caribbean; and

20 (2) partner institutions in the Caribbean and
21 United States cooperating agencies are creditable.

22 **SEC. 6. SHIRLEY CHISHOLM UNITED STATES-CARIBBEAN**
23 **EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—To carry out the purpose of this
25 section, the Secretary of State, acting through the Under

1 Secretary for Public Diplomacy, is authorized to establish
2 a Caribbean international exchange visitor program, to be
3 known as the “Shirley Chisholm United States-Caribbean
4 Educational Exchange Program”, under which—

5 (1) secondary students from the Caribbean
6 would—

7 (A) attend a public equivalent school in the
8 United States;

9 (B) participate in activities designed to
10 promote a greater understanding of United
11 States values and culture; and

12 (C) have the option to live with a United
13 States host family and experience life in a
14 United States host community; and

15 (2) undergraduate, graduate students, and
16 scholars from the Caribbean would—

17 (A) attend a private or public college or
18 university in the United States;

19 (B) participate in activities designed to
20 promote a greater understanding of United
21 States values and culture; and

22 (C) have the option to live with a United
23 States host family and experience life in a
24 United States host community.

1 (b) PERCENTAGE REQUIREMENT.—Not less than 75
2 percent of Program participants may be from member
3 countries of CARICOM.

4 (c) COLLABORATION.—The Secretary shall collabo-
5 rate with Caribbean counterparts to establish similar ex-
6 change opportunities for United States secondary, under-
7 graduate, graduate students, and scholars.

8 (d) COOPERATION.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall cooper-
10 ate with United States cooperating agencies to de-
11 velop and implement the Program.

12 (2) ELIGIBILITY FOR FEDERAL FUNDING.—The
13 cooperating agencies shall be eligible for Federal
14 funds and may request assistance from other private
15 donors to assist in the implementation of the Pro-
16 gram.

17 (3) SCHOLARSHIPS.—The cooperating agencies
18 may offer, on a merit and need-based basis, scholar-
19 ships to eligible United States and Caribbean par-
20 ticipants.

21 **SEC. 7. CARIBBEAN EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRO-**
22 **GRAMS.**

23 The Administrator, acting through the Assistant Ad-
24 ministrator for Latin America and the Caribbean, shall
25 develop a comprehensive program that extends and ex-

1 pands existing primary and secondary school initiatives in
2 the Caribbean to provide—

3 (1) teacher training methods; and

4 (2) increased community involvement in school
5 activities.

6 **SEC. 8. PUBLIC PRIVATE VENTURE.**

7 Where possible for the purposes of implementing sec-
8 tions 6 and 7, the Secretary, the Administrator, and co-
9 operating agencies are authorized to solicit funding from
10 private sources.

11 **SEC. 9. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

12 (a) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than three months
13 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
14 shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees
15 a report setting forth plans to implement sections 6 and
16 7. The report shall include—

17 (1) an estimate of the number of participating
18 students from each country;

19 (2) an identification of United States cooper-
20 ating agencies; and

21 (3) a schedule for implementation of the Shirley
22 Chisholm United States-Caribbean Educational Ex-
23 change Program.

24 (b) SUBSEQUENT REPORTS.—The Secretary shall
25 submit to the appropriate congressional committees reg-

1 ular reports upon the request of such committees or their
2 Members.

3 **SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-
5 priated to the President to carry out this Act such sums
6 as may be necessary for each of fiscal years from 2008
7 through 2018.

8 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
9 gress that not less than \$6,000,000 in additional funding
10 above the amount that is otherwise authorized to be appro-
11 priated for educational exchange programs should be made
12 available for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2018 to
13 carry out this Act, as follows:

14 (1) \$4,000,000 for the Shirley Chisholm United
15 States-Caribbean Educational Exchange Program
16 administered by the Department of State under sec-
17 tion 6; and

18 (2) \$2,000,000 for Caribbean educational devel-
19 opment programs administered by the United States
20 Agency for International Development under section
21 7.

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